

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shougo SATO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2852

Application No.: 10/782,973

Examiner: H. NGO

Filed: February 23, 2004

Docket No.: 118785

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND PHOTORECEPTOR CARTRIDGE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☒ 3. One or more reference cited herein was cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information. See References 1-7.
- ☒ 4. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2)(ii), copies of any U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.
- ☒ 5. An English language Abstract of one or more non-English language reference is attached hereto. See References 2-7.

- ☒ 6. A computer-generated English language translation of one or more Japanese Patent Publication cited herein has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office ([<http://www.jpo.go.jp>]), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 2-7.
- ☒ 7. Reference #1 corresponds to reference #3.

Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 1/06)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 118785		APPLICATION NO. 10/782,973	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT(S) Shougo SATO et al.			
				FILING DATE February 23, 2004		GROUP 2852	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number	Date	Name
	1	6,463,234 B2	10/8/2002	ARIMITSU et al.

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number	Date	Country	With English Abstract	With English Translation
	2	JP-A-10-186851	07/14/1998	Japan	X	X
	3	JP-A-2001-255806	09/21/2001	Japan	X	X
	4	JP-A-8-137366	05/31/1996	Japan	X	X
	5	JP-A-8-137367	05/31/1996	Japan	X	X
	6	JP-A-8-15948	01/19/1996	Japan	X	X
	7	JP-A-7-295315	11/10/1995	Japan	X	X

OTHER DOCUMENTS		
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

Date: May 3, 2006

Date: 2006/04/11

Office Action

Application No.: JP-2003-074072

Date of drafting: 2006/04/06

Examiner: Takuya IZUMI

Claims 1-3 are rejected because they lack inventive step.

Cited reference(s): documents 1-5

Remarks:

Documents 1 and 2 disclose image forming apparatuses that are provided with a plurality of developing units and image carrier units. Documents 3 and 4 disclose configurations that a developing unit and an image carrier unit are separately and independently detachable.

Document 6 discloses a positioning member that includes an urging means for positioning an image carrier, the positioning member being disposed at a deepest portion in a guiding unit.

List of cited reference(s)

1. JP-A-10-186851
2. JP-A-2001-255806
3. JP-A-8-137366
4. JP-A-8-137367
5. JP-A-8-015948
6. JP-A-7-295315